
The MCA Advisory

The Newsletter of Medal Collectors of America

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Important Dates

Kolbe's Sale of Ford Library II June 11th

ANS Convention July 27th-31st

From the Editor

Dues checks have been rolling in but there are plenty of you who have not yet paid. Enclosed is another form for your convenience.

This issue features the second installment of David MENCHELL's extraordinary opus on the medals of the French and Indian War. There is much to learn herein and the illustrations (in color, yet) really bring the subject alive. If you didn't get to see David's exhibition in Pittsburgh, the MCA series is the next best thing.

Later this week, we will attend a séance for a new book on the French and Indian War. Written by William Fowler, executive director of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the book will get you hooked on the subject, assuming that David's article has not already done the job.

SPECIAL OFFER

Steve Pellegrini suggests (see below) that members write a three or four paragraph piece on their favorite medal. We will send a free copy of the new book to the first three enthusiasts to send us such articles. Naturally, a copy goes to Mr. MENCHELL who has inspired the whole subject.

Mint Archives

A recent visit to the Mint archives in Philadelphia yielded a respectable haul. Our primary interest was in the electrotyping activity of Franklin Peale. However we also copied other documents

that we thought would interest our readers.

One such is Peale's estimate of the cost of dies for Indian peace medals. This expense, which was to be born by the War Department, was as follows:

One large size model in wax	\$ 60.00
Moulding in iron	20.00
Retouching hub and die	125.00
Die forging and turning	25.00
Contingencies	<u>60.00</u>
	290.00
2 nd & 3 rd @ \$150	<u>300.00</u>
	\$590.00

From this simple set of numbers we can infer Peale's process: wax to iron to steel. From the date, 11/2/1841, we can conclude that the subject of the calculation was peace medals for President Polk. And, from "2nd and 3rd" @ \$150, we learn that the Polk medals were to be made in three sizes.

Another pithy discovery was the following letter, dated 12/10/1851, from Peale to Mint Director Eckert:

Sir

In response to your verbal request of this day, there is now preparing to accompany this note, a list, with remarks copied from my Register of Dies of all the National, State and private dies in my possession.

You will perceive at once the immense value, and ever increasing interest of this collection, and how important it is that the System should be

maintained for their preservation, as national records.

It may be of interest also to state that if my memory serves me, there were fifty thousand pair of dies thus preserved in the Museum of the Mint of Paris, many years since and that numerous additions have been made since that time.

Very respectfully, etc.
Franklin Peale

Ed: The "Registry" referenced may be the one now preserved at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the one used extensively by Bob Julian 30 years ago. A version of Peale's list was included in the Mint Report for 1855, making that document an important desideratum for collectors of American medals.

Short Articles and/or Features

(by Steve Pellegrini)

I would first off like to sincerely thank you for the shot of adrenaline you've injected into MCA. Before the advent of your Presidency I'm afraid I had little faith the club would survive another year. Now it's as if a numismatic 'Noreaster barrels out of Boston rushes across the heartland and arrives every month resting snugly in my PO Box. And each month the newsletter gets better and better.

I recently emailed a collector friend and asked him if he were renewing his membership in MCA for this year. He said he wasn't sure because

there didn't seem to be much in it for him. He feels, as do I, that its focus has settled into a Betts Medal specialization. But though I had to agree with him on this point I did ask him, "What have we done to include our interests into the club or the Newsletter?" The answer of course is 'nothing' – we've done nothing. I'd like that to change.

The other day I was copying an article out of an old TAMS for a friend. The issue was within a file containing TAMSj from the 1960s. In each issue I flipped through I noticed a regular feature called, I believe, 'Medallic Vignettes'. Each month a member picked an interesting medal from their collection and wrote up its history, meaning, specs, creator, etc. A photo of the medal accompanied each vignette. The text never seemed to run more than three or four normal-sized paragraphs. I believe that this short format would work in the MCA newsletter. We all have a few medals in our collections which we find especially interesting and which we would dearly love to show off.

More than a few medal and token collectors keep a secret wish-list of ideas for articles, monographs, websites and even books which they would dearly love to someday be able to research and write, contributing to their specialty. Unfortunately most of us do not possess the know-how, time or confidence to pull off these worthy projects. But a few paragraphs about a favorite, rare or exotic medal from our own collection? I think most of us could happily manage that. Finally a monthly 'featured medal' would give collectors whose interests lay elsewhere than the Betts or Comitia

Americana Series a chance to participate and 'show their stuff'.

Do you think something along these lines would be appropriate or helpful for our organization and its newsletter?

Ed: Yes! Yes! Yes! Hop to it Steve and all you non-Betts collectors

Medal of Conflict, Medals of Conquest: The Numismatic Legacy of the French and Indian War – Part 2 (by David Menchell)

The Tide of War Turns: 1758

The year 1757 saw one major engagement, the siege and capture of Fort William Henry on Lake George by the French under Montcalm. In the aftermath of this loss, the English commander, Lord Loudoun, was recalled and his second in command, Major General James Abercromby, was placed in charge. The British strategy for 1758 encompassed a large-scale, three-pronged attack on New France. Major General Abercromby was to lead an attack on Fort Carillon, Major General Jeffery Amherst was to coordinate an amphibious attack against Louisbourg, and Brigadier John Forbes would attempt another assault on Fort Duquesne. At their disposal were some 24,000 British regulars and 22,000 provincials, against a vastly inferior French force spread thinly across the northern and western frontiers.

In July, British forces departed the former site of Fort William Henry by boat for a lake assault on Fort Carillon. Poor judgment on the part of Abercromby, deciding to attack the heavily fortified French positions without artillery support, led to a costly British defeat, and the British withdrew on July 8th, suffering over 1,000 casualties. One bright spot in the New York theater was Captain Bradstreet's capture of Fort Frontenac on Lake Ontario by a waterborne force of 2,200. In addition to driving the French from the area, supplies and provisions meant for other French forts in the west had been confiscated.

In contrast to Abercromby's New York campaign, the siege of Louisbourg was a resounding success. Louisbourg was the strongest fortress in North America, with 3,500 troops garrisoned at the fort and 12 French warships patrolling the harbor. The British countered with over 40 ships under the command of Admiral Edward Boscawen and some 12,000 men led by Amherst and his senior officers, Brigadiers James Wolfe, Charles Lawrence, and Edward Whitmore. The first British troops landed on June 8th, gaining control of the beaches to the west despite heavy surf and French defenses. Amherst's approach was to surround and isolate the fortress, bombarding the city until it capitulated. By June 12th, Wolfe's division had seized two important batteries outside of the fort. On June 29th, the desperate French sank six warships in the harbor, thereby blocking access by the Royal Navy. By late July, the British siege lines were closing in. The remaining French warships Prudent

and Bienfaisant were captured in Louisbourg harbor, and the Prudent burned. Following this loss, the French garrison finally surrendered on July 26th. The importance of this victory to the British public is reflected in the large number of commemorative medals struck for the occasion.

Brigadier Forbes' successful expedition to regain Fort Duquesne avoided Braddock's costly mistakes. His route was shorter, running due west through Pennsylvania, establishing forts along the route to secure supply lines and communications. On September 14th, a reconnaissance mission by Major James Grant failed when troops from the fort outflanked the British, capturing or killing 200 men. Attempting to build on this victory, the French attacked the forward supply base at Fort Ligonier in October. The British counterattacked, and the French were forced to withdraw. French demoralized by the capture of supplies due from Fort Frontenac, began withdrawing. On November 24th, British advance scouts arrived in time to witness the French blowing up the fort. The British took possession the next day, renaming it Fort Pitt.

Both Colonel Bradstreet's capture of Fort Frontenac and Forbes retaking of Fort Duquesne are recorded on the British Victories of 1758 medal, in addition to the victory at Louisbourg.



Contemporary map of Louisbourg showing the fortress, the British lines of attack to the west, and the French fleet occupying the harbor.

Louisbourg Captured Admiral Boscawen Medals, 1758

News of the capture of the fortress of Louisbourg was met with widespread enthusiasm by the English public, and resulted in a large production of commemorative medals. Most were of inferior quality and produced in brass for the general public. While produced in large quantities, the poor workmanship of these crude pieces is no doubt responsible for their scarcity, since they were probably not considered of sufficient value to be saved. Although the siege and capture of Louisbourg was

a joint effort of the naval forces under Boscawen and the army led by General Amherst, curiously no mention of Amherst is made on any of these medals.

**Admiral Boscawen/Louisbourg
Taken, 1758**



Betts 403

Struck in brass (also 404 and 407)
40.9 mm, 240.0 grains.

Obverse: ADM^L BOSCAWEN •
TOOK • CAPE • BRETON Bust of the
Admiral in armor facing to right; his hair
long mantle and ribbon across his breast.

Reverse: LOUISBOURG In
exergue, IUL 26 1758 In the foreground,
the ocean with five ships; the city under
attack beyond, with a cannon ball just
striking a high tower on a hill.



Betts 404

41.45 mm, 233.6 grains

Same as Betts 403, except no
cannonball fired from mortar on reverse.



Betts 405; very rare
37.3 mm, 187.8 rains

Obverse: Legends as 403. The Admiral in naval uniform, half-length portrait to right, holding a baton in his right hand; a sash crosses his breast from left shoulder.

Reverse: Similar to 403 but reversed, with seven ships in foreground, and no cannonball.



Betts 406, very rare
37.3 mm, 205.4 grains

Similar to 405, except five ships in foreground, and three hills on reverse.





Louisbourg Medal by Pingo

This medal was awarded to the commanding officers and distinguished soldiers involved in the siege and capture of the French fortress of Louisbourg, the first such English medal given for action in North America. Engraved by the English Mint engraver, Thomas Pingo, the reverse is an accurate depiction of the burning of the French warship *Prudent*, and the capture of the *Bienfaisant*. Examples are known in gold, including that given to Admiral Boscawen; the silver medals presumably went to subordinate officers and the copper to soldiers. It is not known who the issuing authority was, although lacking any portrait or reference to George II it is unlikely to have been sanctioned by the Crown.

Betts 407

Struck in brass; rare, 26.1 mm, 58.7 grains

Obverse: TO BRAVE ADMIRAL BOSCAWEN. Bust of the Admiral in armor facing the right, similar to 403

Reverse: I SURRENDER PRISONER. In exergue, 1758. At the left an officer (the Chevalier de Drucour, who commanded the French), kneeling and surrendering his sword to another officer standing right, and waving a sword in his right hand.



Louisbourg Taken, 1758

Betts 410 Thomas Pingo,
Engraver.

Struck in gold (extremely rare),
silver (very rare), copper (rare), gilt
copper (Not previously described;
unique?)

Shown in gilt copper – 44.0 mm,
669.2 grains

Obverse: PARITER • IN • BELLA
on a scroll over a globe (Equally brave in
war, referring to British army and naval
forces). At the bottom to the left, T.
PINGO. F. A prostrate naked female
figure on a rock in the foreground,
pointing to an inverted fleur-de-lis.
Resting on the female is a globe showing
North America and inscribed, CANADA,
AMERICA; on the left is a British
grenadier with a musket and bayonet,
and on the right a sailor with his hat
raised; behind the globe is the Union
Jack, and above, Fame flying to left and
blowing a trumpet; in her left hand is a
laurel wreath; in the distance are boats
and a high rock.

Reverse: LOUISBOVRG - TAKEN -
MDCCLVIII View of the attack on the
city, from the inside of a battery with
soldiers, who are shelling the town on
the right; a bomb just fired is seen in the
air above the city. At the left is a
lighthouse; on the ocean in front of the
battery are eight war vessels and several
small boats; one ship is in flames
[representing the burning of the French
man-of-war].

Louisbourg Medal by Kirk

This medal was the first in a
series done for the Society for Promoting
Arts and Commerce, a group dedicated to
patronage of the arts, founded by
Thomas Hollis in 1754. Hollis engaged
the renowned engraver and illustrator,
Giovanni Battista Cipriani, to design
several medals commemorating British
victories of the day. Cipriani was clearly
inspired by the coinage of ancient Rome,

from which many of the images are derived. The engraving was done by John Kirk, who produced a number of medals from 1745 until his death in 1776. On the reverse, among the trophies being carried by Victory is a large fish with small fish around its mouth, allusions to the important fishing industry in the region captured by the British.



Louisbourg Taken,
1758
Betts 411
John Kirk, Engraver
Struck in silver
(extremely rare) and copper
(very rare)

Shown in copper -
40.6 mm, 371.9 grains

Obverse: O . FAIR .
BRITANNIA . HAIL. Under
truncation I. KIRK. F.
Undraped and filleted head
of Britannia to the left with
a Phrygian cap before her,
and a trident behind.

Reverse: LOUISBOVRG .
TAKEN . MDCCLVIII
Below, I. KIRK. F. A winged
Victory marching to the
right holding on her left
shoulder a pole supporting a
shield with a *fleur-de-lis*, an
ancient cuirass, and a palm
branch; in her right hand
she holds a large fish, with
several small fish about its
mouth.

British Victories, 1758

This medal lists British victories worldwide during 1758, as a counterfoil to the French victory medal struck the same year. The symbolism of Britannia, Justice and Liberty trampling the French fleur-de-lys is obvious. Included are two victories in Africa, at Senegal and Goree, and two successful European campaigns, at St. Malo and Cherbourg. The three American victories mentioned are the taking of Louisbourg by Boscawen and Amherst on July 27th; Colonel Bradstreet's capture of Fort Frontenac on August 24th; and the recapture of Fort Duquesne on November 24th by British forces under General Forbes. The British medal mirrors the positive turn of events during 1758; in

contrast, the French victory medal recalls past victories.



*British Victories of
1758*
Betts 416

Struck in silver (very rare),
copper, and brass.

Shown in silver – 44.4 mm, 558.6
grains

Obverse: GEORGIUS • II • REX •
(George II, King.) Laureated bust of the

King to left, in armor, and wearing the
ribbon and star of the Garter.

Reverse: FOEDUS • INVICTUM •
(The unconquered alliance) on a
ribbon above Britannia, seated in
a chariot drawn by a lion,
supported by the figure of Justice
to the left and of Liberty to the
right, driving over ground strewn
with the fleurs-de-lis of France.
Below the group, MDCCLVIII -
Legend in two concentric circles,
the outer being the locations and
dates of seven British victories,
the inner the names of the
victorious commanders.

Fall of Quebec & Victories of 1759

Given the success of the multi-
front strategy of 1758, the British
adopted a similar approach for the
campaigns of 1759. With the fall of
Louisbourg and Cape Breton Island, the
British gained control of the Gulf of St.
Lawrence, with Quebec City their next
objective. The Quebec campaign would
be commanded by James Wolfe, newly
promoted to Major General. General
Amherst would lead his troops against
Forts Carillon and St. Frederic in upper
New York, with Montreal as his ultimate
goal. In the western region, Amherst
ordered Brigadier General John
Prideaux to reoccupy Oswego, and then
proceed to Fort Niagara. Finally, the
newly reestablished Fort Pitt would
serve as a base for operations against
Forts Presque Isle and Venango to the
north.

By July 7th, Prideaux and a
combined force of 5,500 troops had
proceeded from Oswego and had Fort
Niagara under fire. In response, a relief

party of 2,000 French and Indians was sent to break the siege. Sir William Johnson, who assumed command after Prideaux was killed in the assault, defeated the French on July 24th. The Fort surrendered the following day. Fearful that the British would pursue them across Lake Ontario and attack Fort Toronto, the French burned and abandoned that fort.

Beginning in March, General Amherst sent a raiding party to assess the defenses around Fort Carillon. Needing time to gather his troops and supplies at the southern end of Lake George, Amherst did not advance against Fort Carillon until late July. With news of the impending assault on Quebec, most of the garrison at Carillon had withdrawn north to Fort St. Frederic. A small force was left at Carillon to delay Amherst's approach. By the 26th, the French had withdrawn. With the British proceeding rapidly north, Fort St. Frederic was also abandoned and blown up. Deciding against further advance, Amherst fortified Carillon and Fort St. Frederic, renamed Ticonderoga and Crown Point.

The most prolonged and memorable campaign of the war was at Quebec. In May 1759, learning that a British fleet had departed Louisbourg heading to Quebec, Montcalm built defenses along the St. Lawrence and deployed 14,000 troops to defend the city. By late June, the British had landed troops on Isle d'Orleans and Point Levi across the river from Quebec City and the French fortifications. In July and August, the French were able to repel two British assaults at Montmorency

Falls and Point aux Trembles. By September, Wolfe felt pressure to push forward with the campaign before the onset of winter. After surveying the river for several days, on September 13th the British landed at a small cove below the city leading to a large plain, known as the Plains of Abraham. Taken by surprise, Montcalm tried to move his troops Quebec as the British drove the French back to the walls of the city. Both Wolfe and Montcalm died of wounds sustained during the attack. The British then lay siege to the city, bombarding it until the French surrendered on September 18th. Although the British gained control of the city, there remained a large French force stationed outside Quebec and in Montreal. With winter coming, further military actions were put off until the following spring.

As with Louisbourg the previous year, the capture of Quebec was celebrated throughout England and would result in several medallic tributes, including a memorial medal to honor the fallen General Wolfe. The capture of Forts Niagara and Crown Point, in addition to the Caribbean victory at Guadeloupe, would be memorialized on the 1759 Victories medal.



Contemporary print of the landing of British troops and scaling the heights to the battlefield on the Plains of Abraham.

Quebec Taken Medal by Kirk

This medal is a companion piece to the stylistically similar Louisbourg medal done for the Society for Promoting Arts and Commerce and its founder, Thomas Hollis. While unsigned, the striking resemblance to the earlier piece suggests Cipriani and Kirk as the designer and engraver of this medal. The crossed trident and ancient standard on the obverse suggests the shared importance of the army and naval forces in achieving victory, with the names of the respective commanders, Saunders and Wolfe, below. The reverse vignette is taken from the Judea Capta coinage of Rome, with the winged figure of Victory crowning a trophy of armaments above a seated, bound captive.



Quebec Taken, 1759

Betts 421

Struck in gold (3 known),
silver (very rare) and copper (rare)

Shown in silver – 40.2 mm,
429.2 grains

Obverse: BRITANNIA, SAVNDERS to left, WOLFE to right in the field. Head of Britannia to the left, her hair bound with a fillet; underneath is a laurel wreath, over an antique standard at right and trident at left, crossed.

Reverse: QVEBEC • TAKEN • MDCCLIX. In exergue, SOC. P. A. C. (Society for Promoting Arts and Commerce.) Victory on tiptoe with a palm branch in her left hand to the left crowns with laurel a military trophy, in which appears the shield of France. Bound to the foot of the stump on which the trophy is suspended is a captive; behind the stump is the prow of a galley.

Death of Wolfe at Quebec

Born to a military family, James Wolfe entered the army in 1741 at the age of 14. Developing a reputation as one of the best officers of his age and rank, he was promoted to Brigadier under General Jeffrey Amherst. He distinguished himself at the landing and subsequent siege at Louisbourg and was appointed Major General by Pitt. He returned to America leading an expeditionary force of 9,000 sent to attack Quebec. After several failed attempts on French positions, he surprised the French with a daring ascent from the river to an open area known as the Plains of Abraham on September 13th. After the opening volley and charge, he received a mortal wound to the chest, dying on the battlefield. The French commander, Montcalm, was wounded later the same day, dying that night. On this commemorative medal designed by Isaac Gosset, the image of Wolfe is taken from a characteristic portrait in military attire.



Death of Wolfe, 1759

Betts 422

Isaac Gosset, Designer;
John Kirk, Engraver

Struck in silver (very rare),
copper (rare), gilt copper
(previously undescribed)

Shown in silver - 37.0 mm,
279.1 grains

Obverse: IACOBUS WOLFE ANGLUS. (James Wolfe, the Englishman). Below the truncation, GOSSET. M. KIRK. F. Bust of Wolfe in armor, draped, to the left, with flowing hair tied in bow.

Reverse: IN VICTORIA CÆSVS.
In exergue, QVEBECÆ | SEPT. XIII |
MDCCLIX. (Slain in the moment of
victory at Quebec, Sept. 13 1759) A
funeral urn, surmounted by a laurel
wreath, on a high pedestal inscribed
PRO | PATRIA. (For fatherland.)
Surrounding the monument are flags,
cannons, drums, battleaxe, sword, shield,
helmet, powder-barrel, and other
implements of war.

British and Prussian Commanders

Britain and Prussia were allied
during the Seven Years' War against the
French and their Austrian and Russian
allies. This medal honors the two
monarchs, George II and Frederick the
Great, along with Britain's powerful
wartime Prime Minister, William Pitt,
and six successful British and Prussian
commanders. Of those listed, Boscawen
and Amherst are notable for their service
in America. The other Englishman
mentioned, Colonel Clive, distinguished
himself in India. The remaining named
individuals, Prince Ferdinand of
England, Prince Henry of Prussia, and
the Duke of Brunswick, distinguished
themselves in the European theater.



British and Prussian Commanders, 1759

Betts 425

Struck in brass - 46.3 mm, 398.3
grains; rare

Obverse: KING GEORGE THE II
FRED KING OF PRUSSIA. At the
bottom, 1759. Bust of the two Kings
facing each other, laureate, in armor,
and with ribbons across their breasts;
crown above.

Reverse: Six medallions with
portraits arranged around that of H.
WILM. PITT; the others are of PRINCE

FERDINAND, PRINCE HENRY, DUKE
BRUNSWIG (*sic*), ADM. BOSCAWEN,
COL. CLIVE and GEN. L. AMHERST.

British Victories, 1759

The Victory Medal of 1759 continues to list further global British victories occurring since the striking of the 1758 medal. Again, there is telling symbolism: the British lion and Hanover unicorn (missing its horn) hold a shield on which is inscribed an inverted fleur-de-lis. Aside from victories at Lagos, Minden, and Quiberon, there are four American victories commemorated: the capture of Guadeloupe by Barrington and Moore on May 1st; William Johnson's seizure of Fort Niagara on July 25th; the fall of Quebec under Wolfe, Townshend, and Monckton on September 13th; and the taking of Fort St. Frederick (renamed Crown Point) by General Amherst on August 4th. At this point, the French were on the defensive as the British furthered their military objectives in North America.



British Victories of 1759

Betts 418

Struck in silver (very rare), brass,
and copper

Shown in brass - 43.6 mm, 486.3
grains

Obverse: GEORGIVS · II · REX ·
(George II, King.) Same as 416.

Reverse: Legend in three circles,
the outer giving the names of six places;
the next, of commanders, and the inner
the date of the victories; over the arms is
the seventh of the groups below a shield
bearing a fleur-de-lis inverted,
surrounded by a garter inscribed

PERFIDIA EVERSA (Treachery overthrown), supported by a crowned lion to left for England, and a horse to right for Hanover; on a ribbon below, W. PITT AUSP • GEO • II PR • MI • (William Pitt, Prime Minister, under the auspices of George II); under the arms, MDCCIX.



British Victories - 1758/1759 Mule

Betts 419

Struck in silver (very rare), copper and brass

Shown in silver – 44.5 mm, 483.3 grains

Obverse: Same die as the reverse of 416.

Reverse: Same die as the reverse of 418.

The Conquest of Canada: 1760

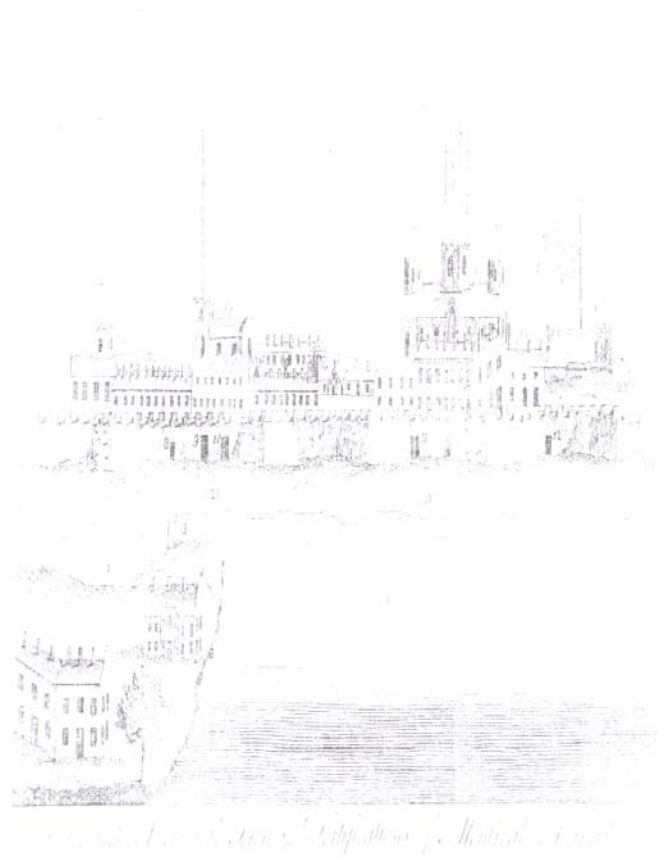
Having captured Quebec and the forts north and west of Albany, the English set their sights on Montreal and possession of all Canada. The isolated British garrison at Quebec under General James Murray had to endure the harsh Canadian winter of 1759-1760 as malnutrition, disease and lack of housing took their toll. By spring, the effective fighting force had dwindled to 4,000 men. In the meantime, the French forces had consolidated at Montreal and, led by Marquis de Lévis, were ordered to retake Quebec. Arriving on April 20th, the French met a contingent of Murray's soldiers at St. Foy on the western edge of the Plains of Abraham. The French forces drove the British back to Quebec and placed the city under siege. The siege was finally broken with the arrival of a British naval convoy on May 16th.

Following the relief of Quebec, plans were underway to attack Montreal and crush remaining French resistance. Murray and his regulars proceeded along the St. Lawrence. Amherst left Oswego with 10,000 troops, capturing Fort Lévis on August 25th while en route to Montreal. Brigadier General William Haviland marched his troops north from Crown Point to take Chambly on September 1st. The three armies converged on Montreal to face the remaining French forces. Unlike Quebec, Montreal had few fortifications, placing the French defenders at a great disadvantage. Governor Vandreuil was compelled to surrender on September 8th.

With the fall of Montreal, the remaining French garrisons capitulated. The British conquest of Canada was complete, bringing to an end French control of the region.

In 1762, as peace was imminent, the French would attempt one last American campaign to regain some territory as a bargaining chip at the negotiating table. Four French warships attacked the British colony of St. John's on Newfoundland, forcing the undermanned garrison to surrender on June 27th. In response, General Amherst sent his brother, Lieutenant Colonel William Amherst, to retake the colony. Assuming the British would be unable to send any military forces until the following year, the French ships had returned to France, leaving only a small force to defend the island. The British attacked on September 18th, easily retaking the colony. The French plan had failed. They did not have the military leverage to regain their North American possessions, and were forced to renounce all titles to these lands in the subsequent peace settlement.

The capture of Montreal and conquest of Canada would serve as the subjects for several commemorative medals. George II, who died October 25th, would be honored on a memorial medal extolling his victories around the world. The retaking of Newfoundland and several Caribbean victories are listed on a 1762 medal of George III, grandson of George II.



Print of Montreal viewed from the St. Lawrence River shortly after capture by the British.

Montreal Taken/Conquest of Canada Completed

Artistically, this is the most elaborate of the group of medals Issued by the Society for Promoting Arts and Commerce to commemorate British victories in America. The obverse shows a reclining male figure with an oar, representing the St. Lawrence, again derived from Greek and Roman images of river deities and no doubt suggested by Cipriani. The standard in the background, surmounted by the British lion, is inscribed with the name of the

victorious Amherst, whose strategy led to the surrender of Montreal without a battle. The reverse, like the Quebec medal, is modeled on earlier Judea Capta types, altered to better represent Canada. In this case, the seated female captive is under a pine tree, with the French shield behind. As suggested by the medal, with the taking of Montreal, British control of Canada was assured.



Montreal Taken, 1760

Betts 429

Struck in silver and copper; very rare

Shown in silver – 40.3 mm, 448.3 grains

Obverse: THE CONQUEST OF CANADA COMPLETED A laureated male figure (representing the St. Lawrence) facing right, reclining, with his right arm resting on the prow of a galley; in his left hand he holds a paddle, while a dog-like beaver is climbing up his left knee. In the background is a standard on which is inscribed the name AMHERST within a wreath of laurel, and surmounted by a lion, which divides the legend at OF; in exergue is the shield of France charged with fleurs-de-lis, surmounting a tomahawk, bow and quiver.

Reverse: MONTREAL TAKEN MDCCCLX. In exergue, SOC. PROMOTING ARTS | AND COMMERCE. A female figure to the right seated on the ground; behind her is a pine tree, and an eagle with expanded wings standing on a rock; before her is the shield of France, with club and tomahawk behind it.

George II/Canada Subdued

This final medal in the series struck for the Society for Promoting Arts and Commerce again borrows from the imagery of Judea Capta coinage. Adhering more closely to its ancient model, the reverse has a simpler, yet evocative appearance, combining the figure of the weeping female seated with Canadian imagery of the pine tree and a beaver climbing up the riverbank. Again, the designs were likely the work

of Cipriani, while the engraving was done by Thomas Pingo. As stated on the medal, Canada was now firmly under British domination. Further activity in the west would focus on the West Indies. The only further action by the French in North America would be a brief unsuccessful attempt to capture St. John's, Newfoundland in 1762.



Canada Subdued, 1760
Betts 430

Thomas Pingo, Engraver

Struck in silver and copper; very rare.

Shown in copper - 39.3 mm, 373.9 grains

Obverse: GEORGE • II • KING
Laureated naked head of the King to left in flowing wig.

Reverse: CANADA SUBDUED. In exergue, MDCCLX | S • P • A • C (Society for Promoting Arts and Commerce). A female figure, weeping, to the right, seated on the ground beside a pine tree; behind on the left is a beaver climbing up a bank. Dotted borders.

George II Triumphs and Memorial, 1760

This medal was struck as a memorial to the late King, who died on October 25, 1760, shortly after the completion of England's successful North American campaign against the French. The obverse portrait of George was done in 1731 by James Anthony Dassier, and was reused with the newly prepared memorial die. The elaborate reverse presents Victory inscribing a shield with England's triumphs in Asia, Africa, America, and Europe and the figure of Fame above. Also honored is the wartime Prime Minister under George, William Pitt, whose portrait is shown on a medallion in the background. While the war was to continue two more years, George's grandson and successor, George III, would be inheriting an England which had become the world's greatest colonial power as a result of the policies of George II.



George II Triumphs and Death, 1760

Betts 427
James Anthony Dassier, Engraver
Struck in copper - 41.2 mm, 576.0 grains; rare

Obverse: GEORGIUS · II · D · G · MAG · BR · FR · ET · HIB · REX ·
(George II, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland.)
Under truncation, J. DASSIER F.
Laureate bust of the King to left, in armor, draped, with long flowing wig.

Reverse: TRIUMPHA UBIQUE. In exergue, J. D. F. (Triumphs everywhere. J. Dassier, fecit). A winged Victory seated, facing left, upon a cannon on a pedestal supporting a trophy of standards, weapons, etc. she is inscribing a shield ASIA | AFRICA | AMERI | EUR | ; behind her is a pyramid decorated with laurels and a medallion Of GU : PITT DICTATOR : (William Pitt, etc.) with bust to right ; Fame at the left, with trumpet, removes a curtain from the medallion; the pedestal is inscribed NATUS 10 NOV : 1683 | COR : 22 OCT : 1727 | OBIT 25 OCT : 1760. (Born Nov. 10, 1683; crowned Oct. 22, 1727; died Oct. 25, 1760), and bears a skull encircled by roses and thistles.

Victories in Newfoundland and West Indies, 1762

This medal of the young George III is reminiscent of the 1758 and 1759 Victory medals of George II. The busy reverse celebrates the birth of the Prince of Wales on August 12th in addition to the listed victories and hopes for imminent peace. Newfoundland refers to the British recapture of Fort William in St. John's from the French. On June 27th, four French ships of the line with 800 troops captured the undermanned garrison, 1762. The French fleet was recalled. However, Jeffrey Amherst sent his brother, William, with 1400 soldiers to recapture the fort. Arriving on September 12th, the French surrendered in three days. The remaining American victories were fought in the Caribbean, with the taking of the islands of Martinique, St. Lucia, Tobago, Grenada, and ending with the capture of Havana.



Reverse: On the field, PAX | AUSPICATA | NOV .3 (Peace foretold), within a circle formed by a serpent devouring its tail, and holding scales, and an anchor below; under the circle, MDCCLXII. Surrounding the circle are four groups, the upper and lower in compartments: at the top PR Of WALES Bo | AUG • 12 Under this, HERMIONE | MAY 31 In the group at the right, The HAVANNAH | ALBEM^L & POPCOCK • AUG 14 | NEWFOUNDLAND SEP 18 | AMHERST I ALCAN^A CASSEL &C &C At the left, MARTINIGO | MONCK^N & RODNEY FEB • 4 • | ST LUCIA ST VINCENT | TOBAGO GRANADA &C MARCH • 1 • 5 &C In the bottom compartment, GREBENSTEIN FERD^D & GRANBY | IUNE 24

George III Victories, 1762

Betts 441
Struck in gold (extremely rare), silver (very rare), copper and brass (rare), gilt copper (not previously described)

Shown in silver – 41.3 mm, 390.2 grains

Obverse: GEORGIVS • TERTIVS • REX Youthful bust of the King to left in armor, draped; wig, hair tied with a bow, and flowing locks below.

Thomas F. Fitzgerald requests information on the medal illustrated below:



Replies can be sent to ye editor or to Tom at fitzshamrock@aol.com



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